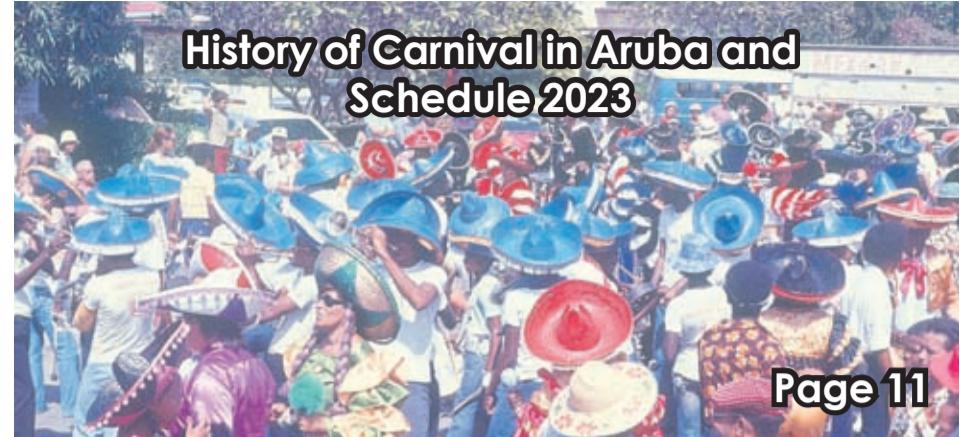




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Biden approval steady after document discovery: AP-NORC Poll

By COLLEEN LONG and
EMILY SWANSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—More U.S. adults disapprove than approve of the way President Joe Biden has handled the discovery of classified documents at his home and former office, a new poll shows, but that seems to have had little impact on his overall approval rating.

The new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 41% of Americans say they approve of how Biden is handling his job as president, about the same as the 43% who said that in December. In the new poll, 77% of Democrats approve of how Biden is handling his job, while 91% of Republicans disapprove, both little changed since late last year.

*material. followed after the personal...
DOJ requested that the search not be made public in advance...
and we agreed to cooperate.*

Yesterday, DOJ completed a thorough search of all the materials at approximately 9:45 AM and concluded at around 10:30 PM spaces in the home. By agreement with DOJ, representatives House Counsel's Office were present.

DOJ had full access to the President's home, including memorabilia, to-do lists, schedules, and reminders deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including markings and surrounding materials, some of which were from his tenure as Vice President of which were from the vice-presidential years.

notes from the vice-presidential years.

we released

Continued on Page 2

The statement by President Joe Biden's personal attorney Bob Bauer is photographed on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

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Biden approval steady after document discovery: AP-NORC Poll

Continued from Front

Biden, who will address a joint session of Congress in his State of the Union address next week, needs all the support he can muster as he strategizes his expected reelection campaign, and has been working to focus voters on his agenda and big legislative wins instead of the documents flap.

Biden's attorneys discovered classified items in a locked closet in November, as they cleared out his office at the Penn Biden Center, a think tank where he briefly worked after he left government. The records were turned over to Justice Department officials. The discovery touched off a special counsel investigation and additional documents have turned up at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, in searches by his lawyers and by the FBI. Agents also searched Biden's vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and his former office at the Penn Biden Center.

More people disapprove than approve of his handling of situation since the classified documents were found, 39% to 23%. Another 36% say they neither approve nor disapprove. Democrats are more likely to approve than disapprove, 44% to 15%, with 40% saying they have no opin-



President Joe Biden talks with reporters after speaking in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Jan 20, 2023.

Associated Press

ion either way.

A majority of Republicans, 68%, say they disapprove, with 6% saying they approve and 24% expressing no opinion either way. Republicans are also somewhat more likely than Democrats to say they've heard at least some about the situation, 71% to 63%.

"To me, it seems like he's doing the right things, and this happens, people have these documents, Trump and now Mike Pence, too," said Candace Porth, 72, of Phoenix, a Biden supporter. "It happens. I think people who are supportive of Bi-

den, they understand."

In follow-up interviews, some poll respondents said they distinguish between Biden voluntarily turning over documents and the behavior of former President Donald Trump, who refused to hand over hundreds of documents, prompting the FBI to raid his home. Still, many are troubled that leaders can't seem to properly handle sensitive information.

"I feel like it is a big problem in general," said Jenifer Hudgins, 36, of Gadsden, Alabama, a Democrat who voted for Biden. "I

do not feel like any official should have classified documents in their possession, especially at personal residences. It does make you wonder why they have these documents at their residences."

Trump is facing a special counsel investigation into his retention of several hundred classified documents and other government records at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida — and his resistance to giving them up, which led to an FBI warrant and nighttime search to seize them last August. Banty Patel, a 46-year-

old Republican from New Brunswick, New Jersey, said it seems like the same problem to him, but Trump and Biden are being treated very differently.

"I think it looks worse for Joe Biden. He went on the news and said he'd always comply with the FBI and then later they discovered he had documents, too."

Most Americans have paid at least some attention to the ongoing investigation into classified documents, but they're not necessarily following it closely. The poll shows that 28% say they've read or heard a lot about the situation, while another 35% say they've heard some about it but not a lot. An additional 37% say they've heard little or nothing about it.

On Wednesday, the FBI searched Biden's home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, but did not find any classified documents there, according to his personal attorney. The Bidens purchased that home, which overlooks a state park adjacent to the beach, in June 2017, months after he left the vice presidency. Agents did take some handwritten notes and other materials relating to Biden's time as vice president for review, just as they did last month when they searched his Wilmington home, where they also found classified items. □



Groundhog Club handler A.J. Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, while Vice President Dan McGinley reads the scroll during the 137th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — A furry critter in a western Pennsylvania town has

predicted six more weeks of winter during an annual Groundhog Day cel-

Phil's Groundhog Day prediction: 6 more weeks of winter

eration. People gathered Thursday at Gobbler's Knob as members of Punxsutawney Phil's "inner circle" summoned the groundhog from his tree stump at dawn to learn if he has seen his shadow — and they say he did. According to folklore, if he sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring comes early.

The annual event in Punxsutawney, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh, originated from a German legend about a furry rodent.

The gathering annually attracts thousands.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration compared Punxsutawney Phil's forecast to the national weather the last 10 years and found "on average, Phil has gotten it right 40% of the time."

This year, Phil's prediction came during a week when a mess of ice, sleet and snow has lingered across much of the southern U.S. According to records dating back to 1887, Phil has predicted winter more than 100 times. Ten years were

lost because no records were kept, organizers said. The 2021 and 2022 forecasts also called for six more weeks of winter.

While Punxsutawney Phil may be the most famous groundhog seer, he's certainly not the only one. New York City's Staten Island Chuck made his prediction for an early spring during an event Thursday at the Staten Island Zoo. Phil and Chuck are among a broad selection of rodents that purportedly predict weather. □

Joe Biden, Bill Clinton mark 3 decades of family leave act

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is playing host to former President Bill Clinton to mark the 30th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the first piece of legislation that the 42nd president signed into law after taking office in 1993. Biden and Clinton will take part in an event Thursday at the White House to put the spotlight on legislation that guaranteed many American workers up to 12 unpaid weeks off to recover from major illness or childbirth or to take care of sick family members. Clinton signed the bill into law on Feb. 5, 1993.

Biden championed but failed to win support for paid leave for workers in 2021. On Thursday, he signed a memorandum that calls on heads of federal agencies to support access to unpaid family and medical leave for federal workers in their first year on the job. Workers aren't entitled to unpaid leave under the law until they've been employed for a year. The president is also directing the Office of Personnel Management to provide



President Bill Clinton reaches for a pen as he signs the Family Leave Bill into law during a ceremony in the Rose Garden in Washington, Feb. 5, 1993.

Associated Press

recommendations on developing policies so workers can get paid and unpaid leave to seek safety or recover from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Such situations are not covered by the family leave law. "This event is a moment to recognize the difference that the Family and Medical Leave Act has made and continues to make for

millions of Americans," said Jen Klein, the White House director of gender policy. "The president will recognize the work that remains to be done to support workers including by reaffirming this administration's commitment to passing a national paid family and medical leave program." Early in 2021, Biden proposed vastly expanding the family leave law to give

workers up to 12 weeks of paid parental, family and personal illness leave and to ensure workers get three days of bereavement leave per year as part of a massive \$3.5 trillion social spending plan. His plan called for providing workers up to \$4,000 a month, with a minimum of two-thirds of average weekly wages replaced. The White House estimated

the program would cost more than \$225 billion over a decade.

Paid family leave didn't make it into the slimmed-down climate and health care legislation that Biden signed into law in August.

A group of Democratic lawmakers have announced they were reintroducing legislation to establish paid family leave and other updates to the law. But passing legislation to establish paid leave program will be an uphill climb for Biden with Republicans now in control of the House. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY, who has been pushing for updating the federal law, said that she's engaged Republican lawmakers on the issue. "We are going to find what common ground exists in both the House and Senate and see if there's some measure of paid leave that can be done with the Republican House," she said.

"I'm optimistic that there's something we can do together. I just don't know what it is yet."

The current federal leave law doesn't apply to a huge swath of the U.S. work force. □

First sweeping federal gun crime report in 20 years released

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The most expansive federal report in over two decades on guns and crime shows a shrinking turnaround between the time a gun was purchased and when it was recovered from a crime scene, indicating firearms bought legally are more quickly being used in crimes around the country. It also documents a spike in the use of conversion devices that make a semi-automatic gun fire like a machine gun, along with the growing seizure of so-called ghost guns, privately made firearms that are hard to trace.

The report comes as the nation grapples with a rise in violent crime, particularly from guns.

Much of the data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives report hasn't been widely available before, and its release is aimed at helping

police and policy makers reduce gun violence, said Director Steve Dettelbach. "Information is power," he said. The report shows 54% of

guns that police recovered in crime scenes in 2021 had been purchased within three years, a double-digit increase since 2019. The quicker turnaround can indicate illegal gun trafficking or a straw purchase when someone who can legally purchase a gun buys one to sell it to someone who can't legally possess guns. The increase was driven largely by guns bought less than a year before, it said. The number of new guns overall in the U.S. grew significantly during that time as gun sales shattered records during the coronavirus pandemic.

Most guns used in crimes changed hands since their purchase, the report states. It also found what Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco called an epidemic



President Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Steve Dettelbach speaks during an event in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, April 11, 2022.

Associated Press

of stolen guns: more than 1.07 million firearms were reported stolen between 2017 and 2021. Almost all of those, 96%, were from private individuals.

Meanwhile, the report also documents a more than five-fold increase in the number of devices that convert a legal semi-automatic weapon into an illegal fully automatic one. Between 2012 and 2016, the ATF retrieved 814 of those, but that number jumped to 5,414 during the five-year period documented in the report.

A conversion device was used in a mass shooting that left six people dead and 12 wounded in Sacramento last April in what officers described as a shoot-out between rival gangs. □

Frustrated Texans endure winter storm with no power, heat

By PAUL J. WEBER and

KEN MILLER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Thousands of frustrated Texans shivered in their homes Thursday after more than a day without power, including many in the state capital, as an icy winter storm that has been blamed for at least 10 traffic deaths lingered across much of the southern U.S.

A warming trend was expected to bring some relief later Thursday just in time for an Arctic front to drop from Canada and threaten northern states, and in particular those in New England, with the coldest weather in decades. Wind chills could dive lower than minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius).

Across Texas, 430,000 customers lacked power Thursday, according to PowerOutage.us. But the failures were most widespread in Austin, where frustration mounted among more than 156,000 customers over 24 hours after their electricity went out, which for many also meant their heat. Power failures have affected about 30% of cus-



Icicles hang from the Angelina Eberly statue in downtown Austin, Texas, during a winter storm on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

tomers in the city of nearly a million at any given time since Wednesday.

Allison Rizzolo, who lost power in Austin, told KEYE-TV that she wished there were more clarity from the city on what to do or expect. "I get that there's a fine line between preparedness and panic, but I wish they'd been more ag-

gressive in their communications," Rizzolo said.

For many Texans, it was the second time in three years that a February freeze temperatures were in the 30s Thursday with wind chills below freezing caused prolonged outages and uncertainty over when the lights would come back on. Mayor Kirk Watson, at a

news conference Thursday, said city officials will review their communication protocols in future disasters.

"I know that top of mind for everyone is restoring power to each and every home, and crews are working even as we speak and have through the night," the mayor said. "Because of the length and nature

Associated Press

of this storm, it has proven very challenging."

Unlike the 2021 blackouts in Texas, when hundreds of people died after the state's grid was pushed to the brink of total failure because of a lack of generation, the outages in Austin this time were largely the result of frozen equipment and ice-burdened trees and limbs falling on power lines.

The city's utility warned all power may not be restored until Friday as ice continued causing outages even as repairs were finished elsewhere.

"It feels like two steps forward and three steps back," said Jackie Sargent, general manager of Austin Energy.

School systems in the Dallas and Austin area, plus many in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Memphis, Tennessee, closed Thursday as snow, sleet and freezing rain continued to push through.

Public transportation in Dallas also experienced "major delays" early Thursday, according to a statement from Dallas Area Rapid Transit. □

Hawaii whale dies with fishing nets, plastic bags in stomach

By AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A whale that washed ashore in Hawaii over the weekend likely died in part because it ate large volumes of fishing traps, fishing nets, plastic bags and other marine debris, scientists said Thursday, highlighting the threat to wildlife from the millions of tons of plastic that ends up in oceans every year.

The body of the 56-foot (17-meter) long, 120,000-pound (54,431-kilogram) animal was first noticed on a reef off Kauai on Friday. High tide brought it ashore on Saturday.

Kristi West, the director of the University of Hawaii's Health and Stranding Lab, said there were enough foreign objects in the opening of the whale's intestinal tract to block food.

"The presence of undigested fish and squid lends further evidence of a blockage," she said in a news release from the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The whale's stomach contained six hagfish traps, seven types of fishing net, two types of plastic bags, a light protector, fishing line and a float from a net. Researchers also found squid

beaks, fish skeleton and remains of other prey in the whale's stomach.

It's the first known case of a sperm whale in Hawaii waters ingesting discarded fishing gear, West said.

The whale's stomach was so large West's team wasn't able to examine it completely. They suspect there was more material they weren't able to recover.

Researchers found nothing wrong with other organs they examined. They collected samples to screen for disease and conduct other follow-up tests.

Sperm whales travel across thousands of miles in the ocean so it's not clear where the debris came from.

Scientists say that more than 35 million tons (31.9 million metric tons) of plas-



This photo released by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources shows debris found in a dead sperm whale at Lydgate Beach in Kauai County, Hawaii on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

tic pollution is produced around Earth each year and about a quarter of that ends up around the water. Marine debris harms numerous species.

Seabirds can ingest as much as 8% of their body weight in plastic. Endangered Hawaiian monk seals and green sea turtles can get caught in plastic nets and die. Sharks and other apex predators eat smaller fish that feed on microplastic, which can then endanger their own health. In addition to eating plastics, large whales are harmed when they become entangled in fishing gear or other ropes in the ocean.

The drag from debris can force whales to use more energy to swim and make it harder for them to eat, causing starvation. □

With Philippine pact, U.S. steps up efforts to counter China

By JIM GOMEZ and
ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

The Philippines said Thursday it was allowing U.S. forces to broaden their footprint in the Southeast Asian nation, the latest Biden administration move bolstering an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan.

Thursday's agreement, which gives U.S. forces access to four more military camps, was announced during a visit by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. He has led efforts to strengthen America's security alliances in Asia in the face of China's increasing assertiveness toward Taiwan and territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

"It's a big deal," Austin said at a news conference, while noting the agreement did not mean the re-establishment of permanent American bases in the Philippines.

In a televised news conference with his Philippine counterpart, Carlito Galvez Jr., Austin gave assurances of U.S. military support and said the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which obligates the U.S. and the Philippines to help defend each other in major conflicts, "applies to armed attacks on either of our armed forces, public vessels or aircraft anywhere in the South China Sea."

"We discussed concrete actions to address destabilizing activities in the waters," Austin said.

"This is part of our effort to modernize our alliance, and these efforts are especially important as the People's Republic of China continues to advance its illegitimate claims in the West Philippine Sea."

American leaders have long sought to reorient U.S. foreign policy to better reflect the rise of China as a significant military and economic competitor, as well as to better deal with the lasting threat from North Korea.

The tensions between Chi-

na and Taiwan will be high on the agenda next week when U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected to meet with China's new

and endangers regional peace and stability."

U.S. and Philippine officials also said that "substantial" progress has been made

that matter the Asia-Pacific will always have to involve the United States simply because those partnerships are so strong," Marcos told

cal combat. The countries' Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement allows visiting American forces to stay indefinitely in rotating batches in barracks and other buildings they construct within designated Philippine camps with their defense equipment, except nuclear weapons.

Philippine military and defense officials said in November the U.S. had sought access to five more local military camps mostly in the northern Philippine region of Luzon.

Two of the camps where the U.S. wanted to gain access are in Cagayan province near Luzon island's northern tip, across a sea border from Taiwan, the Taiwan Strait and southern China. Other camps that would host American forces are along the country's western coast, including in the provinces of Palawan and Zambales, which face the disputed South China Sea.

"The Philippine-US alliance has stood the test of time and remains ironclad," the allies said in their statement. "We look forward to the opportunities these new sites will create to expand our cooperation together." Austin is the latest high-ranking American official to travel to the Philippines after Vice President Kamala Harris visited in November, in a sign of warming ties after a strained period under Marcos's predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte had nurtured cozy ties with China and Russia and at one point threatened to sever relations with Washington, eject American forces and abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement that allows thousands of American forces to come each year for large-scale combat exercises.

"I am confident that we will continue to work together to defend our shared values of freedom, democracy and human dignity," Austin said.

"As you heard me say before, the United States and the Philippines are more than just allies. We're family." □



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., center, talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd James Austin III, third from left, during a courtesy call at the Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

foreign minister, Qin Gang. China claims the self-ruled island as its own territory to be taken by force if necessary and Beijing has sent warships, bombers, fighter jets and support aircraft into airspace near Taiwan on a near-daily basis, sparking concerns of a potential blockade or military action. The announcement from the Philippines follows a U.S.-Japan declaration on Jan. 11 that those two countries' militaries would be updating and strengthening their defense posture, as well as other earlier pledges of greater military cooperation from Indo-Pacific partners stretching as far south as Australia.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning responded Thursday by accusing the United States of pursuing "its selfish agenda."

"The U.S. has adhered to a Cold War zero-sum mentality and strengthened military deployment in the region," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing.

"This is an act that escalates tensions in the region

in projects at five Philippine military bases, where U.S. military personnel were earlier granted access by Filipino officials. Construction of American facilities at those bases has been underway for years but has been hampered by unspecified local issues.

China and the Philippines, along with Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have been locked in increasingly tense territorial disputes over the busy and resource-rich South China Sea. Washington lays no claims to the strategic waters but has deployed its warships and fighter and surveillance aircraft for patrols that it says promote freedom of navigation and the rule of law but have infuriated Beijing.

Austin thanked President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whom he briefly met in Manila, for allowing the U.S. military to broaden its presence in the Philippines, Washington's oldest treaty ally in Asia.

"I have always said that it seems to me that the future of the Philippines and for

Austin.

Galvez said there was a need for more consultations, including with local officials in provinces where visiting U.S. forces would establish a presence in Philippine military camps.

A few dozen leftist activists held a noisy protest Thursday and set a mock U.S. flag ablaze outside the main military camp where Austin held talks with his Philippine counterpart. While the two countries are allies, leftist groups and nationalists have resented and often protested boisterously against the U.S. military presence in this former American colony.

The country used to host two of the largest U.S. Navy and Air Force bases outside the American mainland. The bases were shut down in the early 1990s after the Philippine Senate rejected an extension, but American forces later returned for large-scale combat exercises with Filipino troops.

The Philippine Constitution prohibits the permanent basing of foreign troops and their involvement in lo-

Israeli settler population in West Bank surpasses 500K

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's West Bank settler population now makes up more than half a million people, a pro-settler group said Thursday, crossing a major threshold. Settler leaders predicted even faster population growth under Israel's new ultranationalist government.

The report, by West-Bank-Jewish-Population-Stats.com and based on official figures, showed the settler population grew to 502,991 as of Jan. 1, rising more than 2.5% in 12 months and nearly 16% over the last five years.

"We've reached a huge hallmark," said Baruch Gordon, the director of the group and a resident of the Beit El settlement. "We're here to stay."

The milestone comes as Israel's new government, made up of ultranationalist parties who oppose Palestinian statehood, has placed expanding settlements at the top of its priority list. Already the government has pledged to legalize wildcat outposts that have long enjoyed tacit government support and to ramp up approval and construction of settler homes around the West Bank.



A general view of the West Bank Jewish settlement of Efrat, Monday, Jan. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

"I think that in the coming years of this government there will be more building than there has been in the last 20 years of governments," Gordon said.

Settlements have flourished under every Israeli government, including at the height of the peace process in the 1990s. Even Israel's short-lived previous government, which included parties supporting Palestinian statehood along with those opposing it, continued to build settlements. The report also comes as a new spasm of violence

is shaking the region and days after a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who pledged support for an independent Palestinian state. The settler population has continued to grow under the Biden administration, despite renewed American appeals to rein in construction following years of President Donald Trump's hands-off approach. The settler population report does not include annexed east Jerusalem, home to more than 200,000 settlers. The West Bank and east Jerusalem

are together home to some 3 million Palestinians. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek those territories for an independent state.

Although Israel withdrew troops and several thousand settlers from Gaza in 2005, it has charged ahead with settlement building in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Dozens of settlements dot the territory, some as small as a few mobile homes and others sprawling cities, with

malls and public transport of their own.

Much of the international community views the settlements as illegitimate and an obstacle to peace. The Palestinians see them as a land grab that undermines their chances to establish a viable, contiguous state.

"All settlements are illegal. There is no legitimacy for settlements or the presence of settlers in the Palestinian territories," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "The increase in the number of settlers is the result of Israeli government policies that do not believe in the two-state solution," which would create an independent Palestinian state next to Israel. Israel claims the West Bank is disputed territory, rather than occupied, saying that terminology denies the Jewish people's historical presence in the land. It argues that the fate of settlements should be part of negotiations to bring about an end to the conflict. Peace efforts have been moribund for nearly 15 years, while Israel continued to establish facts on the ground with more settlement construction and a Palestinian political rivalry complicated peacemaking. □

African countries lack 'immediate access' to cholera vaccine

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Africa's public health agency says countries with deadly cholera outbreaks on the continent have no "immediate access" to vaccines amid a global supply shortage.

The acting director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ahmed Ogwell, told journalists on Thursday that the agency is working with the World Health Organization and the vaccine alliance GAVI on ways to obtain more doses.

The Africa CDC is also working with two local manufac-

turers to explore if their facilities can be repurposed to manufacture cholera vaccines, Ogwell said. He didn't say which ones.

WHO and its partners recommended in October that countries temporarily switch to using a single dose of the cholera vaccine instead of two because of the supply shortage as outbreaks of the water-borne disease surge globally. They said one dose of vaccine has proven effective in stopping outbreaks "even though evidence on the exact duration of protection is limited" and appears to be lower in children.

WHO noted that Haiti and

Syria also are trying to contain large outbreaks. WHO and partner agencies manage a stockpile of cholera vaccines that are dispensed free to countries that need them.

Malawi in southern Africa especially is struggling with a cholera outbreak. The country has recorded 3,577 new cases including 111 deaths in the past week, Ogwell said. They make up the bulk of the new cholera cases on the continent.

Since the beginning of 2023, there have been 27,300 new cases of cholera including 687 deaths in five African countries, Ogwell said.

The WHO has said climate change could make cholera epidemics more common, as the bacteria that

causes the disease can reproduce more quickly in warmer water. □



Health workers treat cholera patients at the Bwaila Hospital in Lilongwe central Malawi on Jan. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

Investors interested in the development of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Wednesday morning, real estate tycoon Rosa Nurys Godet held a press conference with Aruba Today and other news outlets to highlight the importance of clear communication and teamwork when developing new projects.

Her real estate investment company has specialized in investing and developing public infrastructures for both the Aruban locals and tourists since 2014. In the past 8 years, the company has provided beautiful structures and entertainment spaces for the community of Aruba, such as the Palm Beach Plaza along the hotel strip in Noord, Rose Alley in main street, Oranjestad along with other structures in that same area.

Mrs. Godet, who is also an international business consultant, has revealed the growing interest of foreign and local investors in new developments on the island. With this, she highlighted the importance of teamwork and communication between all parties involved in the development of new projects.

Of course, when taking up new projects, there are going to be some bumps on

the road. Despite this, Mrs. Godet is optimistic — yet firm—with her wishes to keep improving the communication between government institutions and investors as she expresses to us how she already has some new project ideas up her sleeve, some of which she has already proposed to the government of Aruba.

In her statement, she expresses her passion and determination for her work, along with her love for the island and her wish to be involved in the island's growth. It is for this reason that she also urges for the space for young investors to grow on the island. As a proud mother of two young investors herself, she strives to teach her children to always conduct business in a proper way: "either you do it and complete it, or don't do it at all."

Finally, she thanked Aruba Today for giving her a platform to express her passion, and she points out how the interest from herself and other investors to see Aruba grow into its full potential is still there: "We are looking to see an island full of flowers, comfort, and happiness." □



(Oranjestad)—Recently, Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Geoffrey Wever, met with representatives of the Sustainable Development Goals Committee (SDG) and the faculty of Sustainable Development Planning of Economic Issues, Trade and Industry (DEZHI) about the next steps in implementing the SDG framework from the United Nations.

Since 2015, Aruba adopted the UN Goals for Sustainable Development agenda for 2030. The agenda consists of global goals for sustainability based on the principles of Human Rights and the "Leave no one behind" slogan, which is crucial for reaching harmony

between the 3 essential elements of sustainable developments: economic growth, social inclusion and protection of the environment.

The SDGs consist of 17 goals, on which countries work to reach their national goals. The goals are as follows: 1. End poverty; 2. End hunger; 3. Health and Wellness; 4. Quality education; 5. Equality between genders; 6. Clean water; 7. Clean energy and economy; 8. Decent employment and economic growth; 9. Innovation and infrastructure; 10. Reduce inequality; 11. Sustainable communities and neighborhoods; 12. Responsible production and consumption; 13. Climate action; 14.

Minister Geoffrey Wever: We need to create necessary conditions for sustainable developments on Aruba

Ocean life; 15. Land life; 16. Peace, justice and strong institution; 17. Partnership to achieve goals.

This week, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations for Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname will visit Aruba, along with different

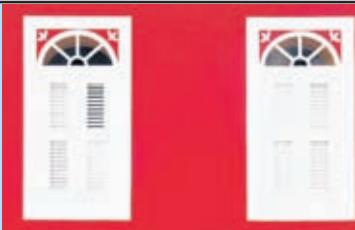
other representatives of UN organizations. The UN is an important international strategy partner in the implementation of SDGs.

Minister Wever: "Aruba knows of different plans and initiatives to further develop sustainability. It's also important to work with

necessary conditions in order to reach this goal, like national awareness about the SDGs, the fortification of national and international strategy partners, improvement of governmental processes and the prioritization aligned with limited financial and human resources." □



LOCAL



The royal visit culminated on the Plaza Padu with a magnificent cultural event

ORANJESTAD - January 31, 2023, marked the second and last day of the Royal visit to Aruba by King Willem Alexander, Queen Maxima, and Princess Amalia.

The morning initiated early with a visit to the National Park Arikok and culminated with a magnificent cultural celebration on Plaza Padu dedicated to the Royal Family.

On the second day of the visit to Aruba, the Royal family walked through the Arikok Natural Park accompanied by the Park Rangers. During their walk, they learned about Aruba's flora and fauna, particularly the protected species.

Since this was Princess Amalia's first visit to Aruba, they went to the Royal Aruba Aloe factory, where they toured the facility and got information about the products made locally with locally grown Aloe. The Royal Family had the opportunity to speak to the employees and also make a product themselves.

In the afternoon, the University of Aruba organized a lecture and special quiz created by the law faculty about "Caribbean Rights". The King, Queen, and Princess participated in said lecture and quiz. They talked with students and



University professors about education in Aruba, job opportunities, and sustainability.

After the University of Aruba, the King and Princess went to the Frans Figaroa Stadium for a football presentation by talented female and male football players. Queen Maxima visited an agricultural project financed by Credits of the Koolman family.

The Royal visit culminated in the evening with a cultural event held on the Plaza Padu and Bon Bini Festival at Fort Zoutman. At this event, the King, Queen, and Princess were introduced to local products and were delighted with song and dance. It was a pleasant evening full of joy and with young and old sharing the beautiful moment with the Royal family. □



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Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising



through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (casabbel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba

and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

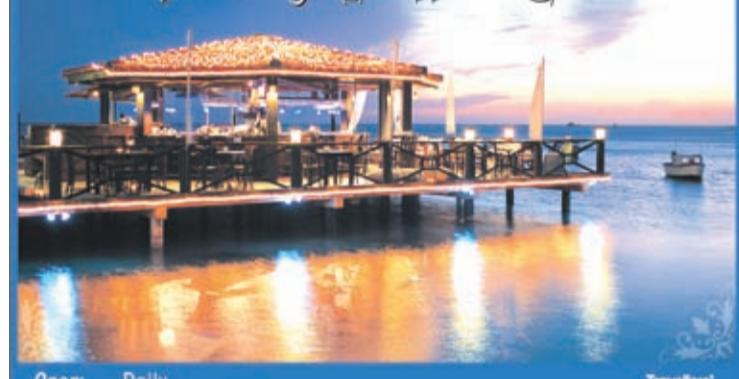
Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy



the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook. □

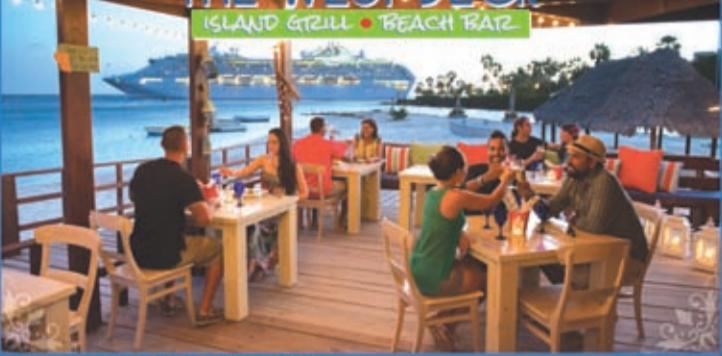
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Consumer Price Index, base period June 2019 - December 2022

Part 2

The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of December 2022.

Change in prices of crude oil, utilities, gasoline and diesel in December 2022

The prices of utilities (electricity and water), gasoline and diesel are for the greater part determined by international crude oil prices. In December 2022 the average price per barrel of crude oil (US\$ 76.80) had a decrease of US\$ 8.28 (-9.7%) compared to November 2022 (US\$ 85.08).

The prices of electricity and water did not change compared to November 2022. Subsequently, the average electricity price per household remained at Afl. 294.56, while the average price of water per household remained at Afl. 168.73.

In December 2022 the price of gasoline registered a decrease of Afl. 17.70 cents (-6.6%) and had an effect of -0.34 ppts on the CPI. The price of diesel registered a decrease of Afl. 23.80 cents (-8.4%) and had an effect

Month	2021										2022																		
	Crude oil	Total			Total			Crude oil	Total			Total			Crude oil	Total			Crude oil	Total									
		energy charge	≤ 500 kWh	501-1000 kWh	Electricity	Water	Gasoline		energy charge	≤ 500 kWh	501-1000 kWh	Electricity	Water	Gasoline		energy charge	≤ 500 kWh	501-1000 kWh	Electricity	Water	Gasoline	Diesel							
January	51.23	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	185.90	152.40	83.06	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	230.60	195.00	January	51.23	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	185.90	152.40							
March	59.10	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	196.30	158.60	91.32	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	245.70	214.10	March	62.62	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	261.00	228.80							
April	61.52	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	221.60	175.88	102.29	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	291.00	274.50	May	65.17	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	222.10	174.60	109.31	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	289.00	289.00
June	70.97	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	225.80	183.00	115.29	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	321.20	290.30	July	72.61	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	230.70	188.70	103.21	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	335.70	312.70
August	67.62	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	235.70	189.30	93.74	38.53	39.65	294.56	167.75	293.20	278.50	September	70.50	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	233.60	185.60	85.37	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	268.00	269.90
October	80.49	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	234.20	193.20	87.61	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	254.90	259.40	November	80.13	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	246.40	209.00	85.08	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	269.10	284.80
December	71.41	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	239.00	202.30	76.80	38.53	39.65	294.56	168.73	251.40	261.00	Yearly Average	67.78	31.09	31.99	240.09	137.05	223.34	181.95	95.14	34.19	35.18	262.78	150.17	275.90	263.17

of -0.04 ppts on the CPI of December 2022.

In December 2022, utilities, gasoline and diesel as a group, showed a decrease in price of 2.1% compared to November 2022, and had an influence of -0.38 ppts on the CPI, while the remaining 404 goods and services, as a group, show an increase of 0.3% and had an effect of 0.27 ppts on the CPI.

Change in prices of Food & catering services in December 2022

The "Food & catering services" index showed an increase of 1.0% in December 2022, after an increase of 1.4% in November 2022. The index for "Food at home" showed an in-

crease of 0.6% in December, as nine (9) of the eleven (11) "Food at home" indices increased in December 2022. The "Bread and cereals" index registered the largest increase

(2.2%) in December 2022. Furthermore, other significant increases were posted in the indices for "Fruit" (1.4%), "Food products n.e.c." (0.9%), "Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery" (0.6%) and "Vegetables" (0.6%). The only two decreases were registered in the indices for "Potatoes and other tubers" (-2.5%) and "Meat" (-0.2%) in December 2022.

The index for "Food away from home" increased by 1.9% in December 2022.

In December 2022, "Food at home" and "Food away from home" as a group showed an increase in price of 1.0% compared to November 2022, and had an effect of 0.16 ppts on the CPI, while the remaining goods and services, as a group, experienced an increase in price of 0.3%, causing an effect of -0.27 ppts on the CPI.

The subsistence level in December 2022

The subsistence level is the minimum level of income which is perceived necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living in a given country. The subsistence level is usually determined by estimating the cost of all the essential resources that an average adult consumes in one month or year. This is commonly called a basic needs index, and varies according to the price of food, clothing, housing, transport and other items in the "basket". Equivalent scales are used to adjust the assumed standard of living, of households of different sizes and composition.

The scale assigns a weight of 1.0 for the first adult and 0.5 for each additional adult in the household (aged 15+) and a weight of 0.3 for each child (aged 0-14 years). The subsistence level is based on figures of the report "Bestaansminimum 2010" published by the CBS in December 2010 and is monthly updated for inflation using the monthly CPI. The reference unit used in this report is a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-14 years). □

Table 7 Percentage change for Food & catering services

Category	Weight coefficient	Indices			Percentage changes			Effect	
		Dec-21	Nov-22	Dec-22	Monthly Oct - Nov	Monthly Nov - Dec	End of period Dec 21 - Dec 22	Monthly Nov - Dec	End of period Dec 21 - Dec 22
Food & catering services	1,517.5	102.18	113.07	114.18	1.4	1.0	11.7	0.159	1.811
Food at home	1,087.7	100.89	113.59	114.32	1.7	0.6	13.3	0.075	1.453
Bread and cereals	178.1	99.95	112.38	114.84	1.7	2.2	14.9	0.041	0.264
Meat	242.5	103.91	120.05	119.82	1.1	-0.2	15.3	-0.005	0.384
Fish and other seafood	49.0	101.06	114.62	114.85	0.1	0.2	13.6	0.001	0.067
Milk, cheese and eggs	135.3	102.93	120.12	120.69	3.8	0.5	17.3	0.007	0.239
Oils and fats	32.2	111.20	127.07	127.09	1.5	0.0	14.3	0.000	0.051
Fruit	97.6	99.97	106.92	108.41	0.8	1.4	8.4	0.014	0.082
Potatoes and other tubers	18.2	79.91	94.80	92.41	-1.5	-2.5	15.6	-0.004	0.023
Vegetables	89.1	90.19	99.03	99.60	5.9	0.6	10.4	0.005	0.083
Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery	42.0	101.87	111.89	112.54	0.8	0.6	10.5	0.003	0.045
Food products n.e.c.	80.1	100.87	108.77	109.78	0.5	0.9	8.8	0.008	0.071
Non-alcoholic beverages	123.6	102.51	113.83	114.36	1.1	0.5	11.6	0.006	0.029
Food away from home	429.8	105.43	111.75	113.82	0.7	1.9	8.0	0.084	0.358
Other goods and services	8,482.5	100.32	105.31	104.97	-0.1	-0.3	4.6	-0.267	3.924
Other goods	4,735.8	99.29	108.84	107.55	1.3	-1.2	8.3	-0.570	3.889
Other services	3,746.7	101.62	100.85	101.71	-1.9	0.9	0.1	0.303	0.035
CPI	10,000.0	100.60	106.49	106.37	0.2	-0.1	5.7	-0.109	5.734

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

History of Carnival in Aruba

(VisitAruba.com) – Each year in January and February, Aruba celebrates another edition of its popular and impressive Carnival season. The incredible atmosphere and cultural diversity during carnival is definitely something that you need to experience. Carnival has its origins in the 1920s, and it evolved through different cultural influences to arrive to what we know and love today.

1921-1945

The first signs of Carnival celebrations began in 1921, when some of the many social clubs would have parties with costumes. These parties would take place at the venues of the social clubs and were primarily elite balls with European style, like debutant balls and costume parties to celebrate the festivities of the season. After some years, the Americans in San Nicolas who were working at the Lago Refinery introduced their own celebrations for the season, with American style. These seasonal festivities were mainly centered around

Halloween, Christmas and Carnival, and became the first step on the road to the carnival celebrations that we know today.

1945-1954

During these years, the Lago Refinery began reaching its employment peak, with most of the recruiting done in the English-speaking islands in the Caribbean, namely Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guyana. These English-speaking migrants were the first to organize a parade in San Nicolas for the allied victory in World War II. It was these immigrants who enriched Aruba's Trinidadian-style Carnival.

Meanwhile, the carnival celebrations of Carnival at the social clubs were becoming bigger and bigger. Every club had a Carnival Queen election on the island, and the first parades were organized by Aruba's oldest social club, Tivoli.

1954-1965

The third era of Aruba's carnival began when the native Aruban and English groups joined to plan



the first public carnival for the entire island, under a (temporary) Central Carnival Committee. With Club Tivoli as a host, the representatives of various social clubs held a meeting to coordinate their efforts for a single, unique Carnival parade in Oranjestad, combining steelband, floats and musicians in costumes and masks. The Carnival Committee organized the first Carnival Queen election.

In 1957, the tradition of having two big parades began; the first in San Nicolas and the second in the capital of Oranjestad. After eight years, Calypso and Roadmarch became an integral part of the Carnival season with the introduction of Calypso contests.

1966-present

The first year of this era was known for the establishment of SAC – The Aruban Carnival Foundation. This committee was founded at exactly 11:11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, known as Fools Day. The Committee was the main organizer of the Carnival festivities, however, it was not the only one: In 1981, Tivoli Social Club established the Lighting Parade.

Nowadays, Aruba's Carnival has grown to become one of the biggest in the Caribbean, with an entire month of parades and activities.

For more information, visit <https://www.visitaruba.com/things-to-do/carnival/arubas-carnival-history/>

To see more photographs of the history of Aruba's carnival, visit the archives of the National Library of Aruba <https://archive.org/search?query=carnaval+aruba>



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Putting site
1 Indiana player
6 Make lumber out of

11 Texas landmark

12 Sung drama

13 Meek

14 Salad servers

15 "Frozen" queen

17 Dele undoer

18 Feel sorry for

20 Damon of "The Martian"

22 Hubbub

23 Family of five, say

26 Rose part

28 Paris subway

29 Depth charges, in naval slang

31 Egg layer

32 Sicilian peak

33 Accomplishment

34 Remove

36 Work the fields

38 Steer clear of

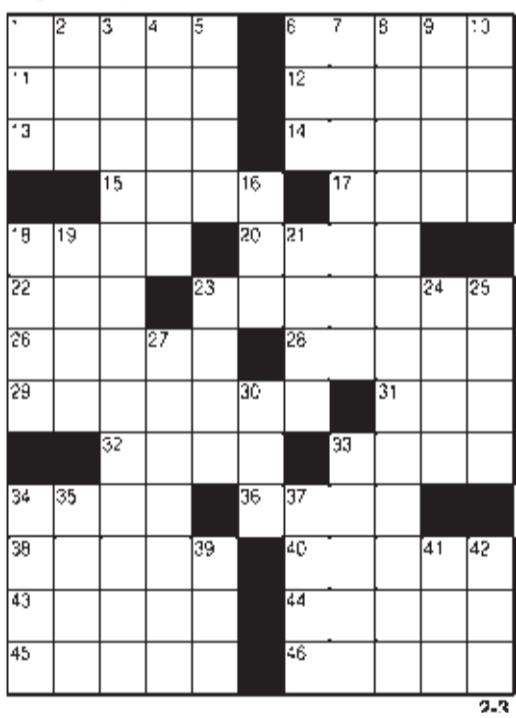
40 Many Mideast natives

43 Audacity

44 Dome home



Yesterday's answer

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

C GEXN ZNNT, ETS EDKEBI

IGEDD ZN, BLPY RYCNTS.

DCXN DLTQ ETS JYLIJNY.

— "IAEY AYNM CC: AGN

KYEAG LR MGET"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DID YOU EVER DANCE WITH THE DEVIL IN THE PALE MOONLIGHT?
— "BATMAN"

Free hotel breakfasts are getting bigger and better

By SALLY FRENCH of Nerd-Wallet

Kimberly Button normally skips breakfast. But on vacation, the hotel breakfast buffet is a highlight.

She's drawn to the oatmeal bar, where she transforms bland grains with an array of toppings—chocolate chips, coconut flakes and berries. Sometimes she grabs fruit to take with her and nosh on throughout the day.

At Disney World, the star of breakfast is Mickey-shaped waffles. When dining at the cafe inside Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa (which does not offer free breakfast), waffles cost \$15 a pop. But for stays at non-Disney properties such as the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Kissimmee, you can indulge in as many Mickey-shaped waffles as you want as part of its complimentary breakfast buffet. "I've eaten at hotel breakfasts around the world, but the breakfasts in Orlando hotels are the busiest I've ever seen," says Button, who runs the



Hector Perez prepares to wrap a bacon, egg and cheese sandwich at a bodega in the Bronx section of New York, Friday, July 22, 2022.

Associated Press

wise pay \$25 per person at brunch.

And then there's the time savings and convenience.

Gone is the anxiety of researching the perfect cafe, only to meet a waitlist after a pricey cab ride there. No debating which restaurant to patronize or which entree to order, as you can try it all at the buffet. And you won't starve while waiting for your jet-lagged companions to wake up, as you can munch on your own schedule. □

It's Wall Street's favorite year of the presidential cycle

By STAN CHOE
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — You may

of 15.9% during the last full year before an election, compared with an overall



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

more than triple the 2.1% average for every first quarter over that span. □

One line of thinking says Wall Street rises in anticipation of the White House passing economically popular measures in hopes of staying in office. The difference could also just be statistical luck. But it's happened enough that professional investors pay at least some attention to it, even if not all the candidates running in 2024 are known yet. The last time a president was in Year 3, in 2019 under Donald Trump, the S&P 500 soared nearly 29%.

This year, there may be less appetite for big government programs that could stimulate the economy, because they could also potentially ignite inflationary pressures. □

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Airbnb's Joe Gebbia donates \$25 million to The Ocean Cleanup



This photo provided by The Ocean Cleanup shows The Ocean Cleanup's founder and CEO Boyan Slat among the trash on the Rio Motagua in Guatemala in 2022.

Associated Press

By GLENN GAMBOA
AP Business Writer

Entrepreneur Joe Gebbia donated \$25 million to The Ocean Cleanup Thursday to support the nonprofit's efforts to remove plastic from the world's oceans and rivers. Experts in the field welcome both the donation and the attention to the issue of ocean sustainability, pointing out that it receives the least funding of all the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. According to the World Economic Forum, about \$175 billion a year is needed to protect the oceans, but between 2015 and 2019 less than \$10 billion total was invested in the cause.

Gebbia, co-founder of Airbnb and Samara and

chairman of Airbnb.org, said he was proud to partner with the nonprofit, which declared his donation the largest in its history. "The Ocean Cleanup has created systems and technology that actually work at scale," Gebbia said in a statement to The Associated Press. "In order for them to deploy across our oceans and rivers, they now need to scale their funding. It is my hope that this donation can inspire others to act."

The Ocean Cleanup works to remove the existing plastic floating in the ocean, especially in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, as well as reducing the amount of plastic flowing into the oceans. The nonprofit has removed roughly

440,000 pounds of plastic from the Garbage Patch, which consists of an estimated 220 million pounds of plastic located between Hawaii and California.

"Joe's continued support of The Ocean Cleanup's mission has a direct impact on our operations all over the world," Boyan Slat, The Ocean Cleanup's founder and CEO, said in a statement. "Thanks, in part, to his generous assistance, we are able to scale up our work in oceans and rivers, helping us reach our goal of ridding the world's oceans of plastic."

Daniela Fernandez, founder and CEO of the nonprofit Sustainable Ocean Alliance, which helps young leaders connect to work on solving issues threatening oceans' health, said many donors do not realize that supporting programs battling climate change does not necessarily support the

welfare of the oceans. She said Gebbia's donation is a sign of change.

"I do think that we are seeing philanthropists pay more attention," said Fernandez, whose group is co-sponsoring Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit in Panama later this month to discuss cleanup and other possible solutions to the oceans' issues. □



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Seroe Preto Tel. 584 4833

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Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Ambulancia	911
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia	Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
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How to reach us!

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'80 for Brady' is a sports film fumble for the ages

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

Tom Brady has officially — and finally, he insists — retired from the National Football League. Based on his new movie "80 For Brady," it's also time that he immediately retire from filmmaking. No one emerges with glory from this syrupy, undercooked story of four older friends who are determined to see Brady lead an astonishing come-from-behind win at the 2017 Super Bowl. A quartet of our finest actors Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field are sacrificed for cheap laughs and unearned poignancy. And Brady, an executive producer, sullies one of his greatest triumphs. That hissing sound you hear in the theater is not footballs losing air but an audience deflated.

Screenwriters Sarah Haskins and Emily Halpern seem to have opened a door into exploring loss, obligation and regret in our sunset years, but fumble badly, instead drifting into granny-accidentally-takes-an-edible territory.

Up on that screen is an EGOT winner, multiple Oscar, Tony and Emmy own-



This image released by Paramount shows Jane Fonda, from left, Sally Field, Lily Tomlin and Rita Moreno in a scene from "80 for Brady." This image released by Paramount shows Jane Fonda, from left, Sally Field, Lily Tomlin and Rita Moreno in a scene from "80 for Brady."

Associated Press

ers, a recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor as well as Kennedy Center and Cecil B. DeMille Award honorees. But they are utterly wasted. At one point Field is reduced to participating in a pointless hot wings eating contest. There's nothing wrong with silly buddy movies or celebrating age on screen and it's refreshing to see both

bundled here. But don't tell us you're empowering older people by making them dance The Twist to get past security into the Super Bowl. Add this to the utter misuse of Diane Keaton in last year's "Mack & Rita," and we call Hollywood for illegal blindside blocks on people over 70 and a loss of 15 yards.

Very, very loosely based on

actual events, the film is so light plot-wise that it threatens to float away.

A ticket mix-up pads a few extra minutes but logic is tossed out, like the time our heroines just happen to find four empty seats in a row just at kickoff at the Super Bowl.

Brady is a constant benevolent presence throughout, whether speaking to Tom-

lin's character through one of his bobble heads or from TV screens in dialogue only she can hear.

"This is going to work out," he promises.

Each of our leading ladies get a single note to develop: Fonda plays the vain, boy-crazy author of Rob Gronkowski erotic fan fiction. Field is the sensible, responsible one. Recent widow Moreno is up for any adventure and Tomlin is the glue holding them together.

When one of the quartet becomes fearful of a recurrence of cancer, Brady becomes her north star and she asks a bust of him what she should do, like a prayer.

"He never gives up no matter what he's up against," she says. You come to expect a bright halo to appear over Brady's head.

Director Kyle Marvin fails to build any real tension as he frighteningly shifts from farce to cringe to melancholy, but real footage of the big game is nicely knitted into the second half. The message here is simple: When you're down, dig deep and go for it. In other words, have the courage to go to a different movie. □

Hasty Pudding to fete Bob Odenkirk as its Man of the Year

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)

— Award-winning actor and bestselling author Bob Odenkirk will be feted Thursday as 2023 Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Odenkirk, best known as shady lawyer Saul Goodman on "Breaking Bad" and "Better Call Saul," is scheduled to receive his Pudding Pot award at a celebratory roast after which he will attend a preview of Hasty Pudding Theatricals' 174th production, "COSMIC RELIEF!"

"When choosing our 2023 Man of the Year, I immediately knew we better call Bob Odenkirk," producer Aidan Golub said in a state-



Bob Odenkirk accepts the award for best actor in a drama series for "Better Call Saul" at the 28th annual Critics Choice Awards in Los Angeles on Jan. 15, 2023.

Associated Press

ment when the award was announced last month. Hasty Pudding Theatricals, which dates to 1844 and calls itself the third-oldest

theater group in the world, has handed out a Man of the Year Award since 1967. Last year's recipient was Jason Bateman, and previ-

ous honorees include Bob Hope, Dustin Hoffman and Sean Connery.

The awards are given out to people who have made lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment.

Actress Jennifer Coolidge has been named the group's 2023 Woman of the Year. She will be honored at a separate event on Saturday. Odenkirk reprised his "Breaking Bad" role of Saul Goodman, aka Jimmy McGill, in "Better Call Saul," which earned him three Critics Choice TV awards and multiple Emmy, Golden Globe, and SAG Award nominations.

He is also the star and executive producer of "Lucky Hank," adapted from the

novel "Straight Man" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo, which is scheduled to premier on AMC and AMC+ on March 19. Other acting credits include "Nobody," "Mr. Show with Bob and David" and "Girlfriend's Day."

He received two Emmy Awards for his comedic writing for "Saturday Night Live" in 1989 and for "The Ben Stiller Show" in 1993.

In 2013 Odenkirk co-wrote The New York Times best-seller "Hollywood Said No!," a collection of unproduced screenplays, and his third book released in March 2022, a memoir entitled "Comedy Comedy Comedy Drama," went to No. 2 on The New York Times bestseller list. □

Portal to Pros: NFL teams eyeing rising number of transfers

By JOHN ZENOR
AP Sports Writer

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — The prolific pace of school-switching among college players has helped some NFL prospects have breakout seasons and demonstrate they can adapt to a new system.

They're hoping that pays off in the draft.

Offensive lineman O'Cyrus Torrence followed his coach, Billy Napier, from Louisiana-Lafayette to Florida and proved he could thrive against Southeastern Conference competition. He could get rewarded with being a first-round pick in April and doesn't have to answer questions about the level of competition he faced.

"I feel like it shows that I'm more versatile than it originally seemed, and that I could hold my own against bigger, faster players," said Torrence, an All-SEC selection. "And just different looks and different things I faced in the SEC. It just shows that I'm ready to hit the ground running with whatever team drafted me."

The transfer floodgates opened wide after the NCAA's April 2021 rule change meant they wouldn't have to sit out a year at another FBS school. It's created some more opportunities for players and



American lineman O'Cyrus Torrence of Florida (56) lines up for the play during practice for the Senior Bowl NCAA college football game Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, in Mobile, Ala..

Associated Press

a chance for more homework from NFL teams, which can evaluate how players made the transition from one system to another and get feedback from multiple college coaching staffs.

"We try to keep up with it as best as we can," said Matt Groh, the New England Patriots' player personnel director. "But you can look out there and there are countless number of players from this school, he was at that school.

"We keep up with all that, and really it's just another group of coaches, support

staff from different schools (and we) get their opinions and their input on a prospect. You can be at one school and have four different offensive coordinators, though, so that's the way it is here these days. These kids have got to learn to adapt."

Some do it better than others. The Senior Bowl and East-West Shrine Game rosters are loaded with players who played for multiple college teams in bids for more playing time, better personal situations or chances to improve their NFL draft

stock. It's likely too early to tell how the increased movement affects players' transition to the NFL.

Several first-rounders in last year's draft were transfers, including ex-Alabama and Ohio State wide receiver Jameson Williams, Florida State defensive end Jermaine Johnson Jr. (via Georgia) and Boston College guard Zion Johnson, who started his college career at Davidson.

Zion Johnson became an immediate starter for the Los Angeles Chargers, Williams missed most of the

Detroit Lions' season while recovering from a knee injury and Jermaine Johnson played in 14 games for the New York Jets.

This season's prospects include some who clearly took advantage of their new situations.

Linebacker Daiyan Henley went from second-team All-Midwest Conference as a Nevada junior to first-team All-Pac-12 and a Butkus Award finalist at Washington State.

Ivan Pace Jr. became Cincinnati's first unanimous All-American after moving 40 miles down Highway 27 from Miami, Ohio. Both are projected as likely mid-round picks.

Tennessee quarterback Hendon Hooker emerged as a Heisman Trophy candidate in his second season after transferring from Virginia Tech. Hooker's season ended with a torn ACL, leaving him as a bystander at the Senior Bowl practices in between meetings with NFL teams. He's not sure he would have reached that point without the move.

"It's a long shot," Hooker said. Also a long shot, but not out of the question: him being a first-rounder, though most projections have him closer to the third. How transfers handle the switch is more information for NFL teams to sort through. □

Denver's Michael Malone gets All-Star Game coaching nod



Denver Nuggets head coach Michael Malone reacts during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Michael Malone might coach Nikola Jokic in the All-Star Game. He might get the rare chance to coach against him, too. Malone and the staff of the Denver Nuggets have clinched their trip to Salt Lake City for All-Star weekend. Malone will coach Team LeBron the team that will be drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James in the Feb. 19 matchup.

Boston interim coach Joe Mazzulla will coach Team

Giannis, the team that will be drafted by Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo. Malone and the Nuggets' staff were locked into the All-Star trip Wednesday night when Portland defeated Memphis. That ensured that Denver will have the top spot in the Western Conference when play ends on Sunday; the All-Star coaches are based off which teams have the best record in each conference two weeks before the game.

"I say it every year and I told our players this. There's

some teams that are dying for the All-Star break and can't wait to go to Cancun," Malone said. "No, we are keeping our eyes on the prize and we have to make sure we play all the way to the break."

If Malone had plans to go to Cancun or anyplace else over the break, he'll be leaving from Salt Lake City.

Jokic, the Nuggets' center and two-time reigning NBA MVP and certainly a candidate to make it three in a row is the only Denver player who'll start. □

All-Star festivities showcase next generation of NHL stars

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) —

New Jersey Devils players watch from the bench often and marvel at some of the things Jack Hughes can do on the ice.

"Every game, at least a couple times, I'll be like, 'Oh my God, that guy's amazing,'" forward Michael McLeod said. "He just gets it done every night."

The same goes in Buffalo, where Rasmus Dahlin described Sabres teammate Tage Thompson's development as "a ticking time bomb." And in Dallas, where coach Peter DeBoer lay awake dreaming of coaching Jason Robertson with the Stars.

While being an All-Star is old hat for the NHL's old guard of Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin and even unquestioned best player in the world Connor McDavid, the festivities this weekend in South Florida are a showcase for the league's next generation of stars, led by Hughes and Robertson now that Thompson is out with injury and replaced by Dahlin. Hughes is an All-Star for the second consecutive season and Robertson for the first time, and their emergence could upend the way the standings and leaderboards look for years to come.

"Once you establish yourself as an NHL player, the next step is how you figure



Dallas Stars' Jason Robertson celebrates after scoring a goal during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the New York Islanders on Jan. 10, 2023, in Elmont, N.Y.

Associated Press

out how to try to win," said Hall of Famer, two-time MVP and six-time Stanley Cup champion Mark Messier. "It's been fascinating to me to see these players going through that process of becoming not only NHL players but bona fide superstars, but more importantly how they're trying to figure out how to win in this league."

With Thompson, Robertson and Hughes all in the top 10 in goals and points, it's no coincidence each player's respective team is in the playoff race at the break. So are the surprising Seattle Kraken, the only team with-

out an All-Star after rookie Matty Beniers was injured, but they'll need him more down the stretch to make it in their second season of existence.

The Devils are on pace to play playoff hockey for the first time since 2018 and just the second in 11 years thanks in large part to Hughes, who trails only McDavid, Boston's David Pastrnak, Colorado's Mikko Rantanen and Thompson in the goal-scoring race. Mike Rupp, who won the Cup with New Jersey in 2003, expected Hughes to produce at a 100-point pace but did not anticipate his scoring to

become so meaningful this season.

"He's scoring in big moments," said Rupp, an NHL Network analyst who will see Hughes up close this weekend in Sunrise. "It's the way he's doing it. He's carrying his team at certain times. He's pushing his team along, Jack and Tage, (too). And I think that is the incredible part is they're not just great talents: They're great talents, and they seem like they've got nerves of steel."

Thompson's nerves and playmaking ability could be on display in the playoffs

if Buffalo can finish strong and knock either Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins or Ovechkin's Washington Capitals out of a wild-card spot. The Sabres have by far the league's longest playoff drought at 11 seasons, and if they snap it, Thompson will be a big part of it, even before starting a \$51 million, seven-year contract he was rewarded with last summer.

Messier credited Thompson for getting stronger in the offseason, augmenting the hands that made the now-25-year-old a 38-goal scorer in 2021-22 and putting him on track for more than 50 this season. Norris Trophy-winning defenseman P.K. Subban, who experienced Thompson's growth firsthand from playing against him several times the past five years before retiring and joining Messier as an ESPN analyst, sees him as a taller version of Hughes with the same level of skill.

"What separates him from a lot of players in the league, and is going to separate him from a lot of players in the league going forward, is his ability at that size to do everything at top speed (with) his range, his skill with the puck, his skating ability," Subban said. "He has all the tools to be a dominant player in this league for a long time."

So does Dahlin, who probably should have been an All-Star in the first place. □

FIA opens application process for new F1 teams

PARIS (AP) — Formula One took a step closer to expanding the grid when governing body the FIA launched its application process for prospective new teams on Thursday.

That could favor Andretti Global, for which Michael Andretti is partnering with General Motors' Cadillac brand. The American alliance has been lobbying the FIA to join F1 but face opposition from current teams worried that an 11th

team would dilute their income.

The FIA said on Thursday there was a "high level of interest from a number of potential candidates" but didn't name any. Prospective candidates will be asked about their environmental credentials and how they would make a "positive societal impact" by joining F1.

"The growth and appeal of the FIA Formula One world championship is at unpre-

cedented levels," FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem said in a statement. "The FIA believes the conditions are right for interested parties, which meet the selection criteria, to express a formal interest in entering the championship."

The FIA didn't say when applications would close, when it might decide on new teams or when they could start racing, though Ben Sulayem referred to the new engine rules coming in



Drivers start the British Formula One Grand Prix, at the Silverstone circuit, in Silverstone, England, on July 18, 2021.

Associated Press

2026 as a factor attracting interest from potential new teams. □